



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that a Federal Grand Jury in Greenville, South Carolina, returned Indictment(s) against the following:

Seven Foreign Nationals Charged with Illegal Re-entry. ISRAEL ESCOBAR, JOSE LOPEZ-AYALA, JOSE ANGEL MALDONADO-ALVARADO, SOTERO SALAS-RUIZ, MARCOS ARCIQUE-MUJICA, RIGOBERTO TOVAR-HERNANDEZ, and CARLOS HERNANDEZ-BARRON, were each charged in separate one-count Indictments with illegal re-entry to the United States, a violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326. The maximum penalty each could receive, depending on their prior criminal history, is two to twenty years imprisonment. These cases were investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents and are assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Max Cauthen of the Greenville office for

prosecution.

Westminster Man Charged with Stealing U.S. Property and Having Possession of an Unregistered Firearm. Christopher Ryan Vess, age 22, of Westminster, South Carolina, was charged in a 2-count Indictment with stealing United States property and having possession of an unregistered firearm, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641 and a violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5871. The maximum penalty Christopher Ryan Vess could receive is 10 years imprisonment for each count. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Forest Service and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney William J. Watkins, Jr., of the Greenville office for prosecution.

Easley Man Indicted for Possessing and Sharing Child Pornography. Jackie Dean Barnes, age 44, of Easley, South Carolina, was charged in a 2-count Indictment with possessing and sharing child pornography, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2252(a)(2). The maximum penalty Jackie Dean Barnes could receive is 10 imprisonment for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 20 years imprisonment for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2). The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney William J. Watkins, Jr., of the Greenville office for prosecution. This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information, please visit

www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

A Union Man Indicted for Mail Fraud. Kelvin Jerome Durham, age 19, of Union, South Carolina, was charged in a 5-count Indictment with mail fraud, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341. The maximum penalty Kelvin Jerome Durham could receive is 20 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney William J. Watkins, Jr. of the Greenville office for prosecution.

Greenville Man

Indicted for Possessing and Sharing Child Pornography. Luke J. Hanna, age 21, of Greenville, South Carolina, was charged in a 2-count Indictment with possessing and sharing child pornography, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2252(a)(2). The maximum penalty Luke J. Hanna could receive is 10 years imprisonment for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 20 years imprisonment for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2). The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney William J. Watkins, Jr., of the Greenville office for prosecution. This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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